**Legislative Update:** Bucks Win, Opioid Settlement Money, Budget, Tax Cut, Worker Shortage/UI, Olympians from Wisconsin,

1. Bucks Championship – “Bucks in six”
   1. First Championship in 50 years, great for the state
   2. Parade on Thursday in Downtown Milwaukee
   3. Glad we kept the team in Milwaukee
   4. Giannis is a great American success story
      1. Hard working immigrant
      2. Family-first guy
      3. Humble and loyal to his city and the fans.
2. Opioid Settlement Money Headed for Wisconsin
   1. This week, it was announced that Wisconsin could receive up to $400 million as part of a national legal settlement stemming from the opioid crisis.
   2. Can be used for Opioid abatement – drug awareness, law enforcement, treatment programs, equipment, etc.
   3. Local government litigants reached a tentative settlement agreement with drug makers.
   4. Our bipartisan legislation, [2021 Wisconsin Act 57](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/proposals/reg/asm/bill/ab374), will facilitate the quick delivery of opioid settlement funds to the front lines of prevention and mitigation efforts.
   5. With the funds getting to the local communities more quickly, Wisconsin counties will be better equipped to fight the epidemic of drug overdoses and opioid dependence that destroy lives, tear apart families, and negatively impact every corner of our state.
   6. This settlement news and our enabling legislation means Wisconsin is turning a significant corner in the fight against opioid addiction.
3. Budget
   1. The Governor Signed our historic Budget – he knew it was too good to pass up
   2. It’s a great budget that benefits everyone throughout the state of Wisconsin.
   3. Overall Numbers (see comprehensive doc also attached)
   4. **Tax Cut**
      1. TOTAL: ~$3.4 Billion
      2. INCOME: $2.5 billion
         1. $1,000 saving for [typical family](https://legis.wisconsin.gov/eupdates/sen09/LFB%20Memo%20on%20Typical%20Families%20Impact%20of%20Tax%20Cuts.pdf)
         2. Governor vetoed withholding money
            1. means more money is needlessly taken from each pay check
            2. You’ll get the money when you file next year, but it’s a zero-interest loan to the government until then.
            3. $700M+ taken out of the private economy
      3. PROPERTY: $650 million
         1. $200 savings for median value home
      4. MAIN STREET: ~$200 million
         1. VETOED the PPT repeal
   5. School Numbers
      1. $2,900 per student increase statewide average (title 1, ESSER III, GPR)
         1. $881 per kid – last budget increase
      2. $781 per kid floor (for 95% of districts will have this floor)
      3. $128M for Special Ed, mental health, other needs
      4. $350M set aside for future education spending
      5. Met the MOE (secured $1.5B in federal funding)
      6. Achieved 2/3 funding
   6. Despite keeping state spending to historic lows, we made targeted investments in every essential function of state government including schools, healthcare, higher education, children and families, transportation, corrections, emergency services, natural resources, agriculture, broadband and more.
      1. Breakdown in each area on other doc.
4. Worker Shortage Still hitting Wisconsin hard
   1. Our bill to end the Federal UI benefits has passed and was vetoed to the Governor
      1. [Even the Biden admin is considering ending this benefit](https://www.businessinsider.com/biden-indicates-federal-unemployment-benefit-expiration-september-2021-6)
      2. The enhanced benefits will end in September, but there might be businesses that can’t make it that long.
   2. 100,000 jobs available on the Job Center of Wisconsin website
   3. Employers are desperate for workers
      1. WMC survey showed 86% of employers were having a hard time hiring
   4. The legislature is considering a veto-override of the Governor’s veto keeping the extra $300 per week in federal benefits.
   5. I participated in WMC roundtable and heard from employers
      1. They are offering $21/hr and $3,000 signing bonus and still can’t attract workers.
   6. We need to do everything we can to remove government disincentives
   7. We need everyone who can work to be contributing to Wisconsin’s future success.
5. Fall Legislative Session
   1. The summer is a little slower for committee meeting and floor session
      1. This gives us an opportunity to go to community events, parades, and local meetings to hear from constituents and understand the issues facing everyone around the state.
      2. Let us know if you have ideas on how to improve state government.
      3. We’re always responsive to constituent ideas.
   2. But we’re busy researching and writing legislation in preparation for fall
      1. Good-government reforms
      2. Transparency bill (Schools, executive oversight)
      3. Bills to help safe communities
      4. Further tax reductions
6. The Olympics started this weekend - [article](https://www.jsonline.com/story/sports/olympics/2021/07/14/olympics-2021-athletes-wisconsin-ties-competing-tokyo-rose-lavelle-kenny-bednarek-khris-middleton/7940656002/)
   1. There are numerous Wisconsin Athletes competing for Gold representing the USA
      1. Quadruple Sculls rowing Team
         1. Alie Rusher (West Bend)
         2. Megan Kalmoe (St. Croix Falls)
         3. Madelyn Wanamaker (Neenah)
         4. Vicky Opitz (Middleton)
      2. Madelynn Bernau (Waterford): Trap shooting
      3. Molly Seidel (Hartland): Marathon
      4. Stephanie Roble (East Troy): Sailing
      5. Also two Bucks Players: Jrue Holiday and Khris Middleton are playing for Team USA Basketball

Unemployment Rates hold steady: We have more to do.

1. May unemployment rates (BLS) were recently announced. Wisconsin’s rate holding steady and is currently at 3.9%
   1. While other states saw a measurable dip, Wisconsin held steady over the end of the year.
   2. We’re still ahead of the Federal rate – 5.8%
2. Local rates rose slightly as well: (most recent numbers as of 5/2021)
   1. Manitowoc County: 4.7% 🡪 3.7%
   2. Sheboygan County: 3.7% 🡪 3.4%
   3. Calumet County: 3.6% 🡪 3.0%
3. **Jobs available:** Almost 100,000 jobs available in Wisconsin – [Job Center Website](https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/wisconomy/wits_info/downloads/Publications/PressRelease/local.pdf)
   1. Employers are desperate for workers.
   2. Many Employers are offering signing bonuses
   3. General federal benefits seem to be preventing workers form getting off the sidelines.
      1. We are working with employers to make sure that people will have incentives to return into the workforce.

Reminder: Support Local Businesses

* Please remember to support your local businesses during this challenging time. Observe CDC guidelines, be respectful of others, and make the extra effort to safely shop local whenever possible.
* Travel Around! There are tourism destinations on the Wisconsin Tourism Website.
  + <https://www.travelwisconsin.com/>

Reminder: If you’d like to receive a vaccine, please check the DHS website and search “COVID-19 vaccine” to get information or call your primary health care provider. If you’re still having trouble, please feel free to contact my office for assistance.

Thank you for having me!

# Contact Me

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